

# Six worshippers killed as sand-laden truck crashes into Lagos church

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File Copy: Lagos Police Public Relations Officer, Abimbola Adebisi.

| By Dayo Oyewo

Tragedy struck on Monday after a truck laden with sharp sand crashed into a church building, killing six worshippers in the Epe area of Lagos State.

*PUNCH Metro* learnt on Tuesday that the incident occurred at about 8.30pm along Hospital Road in the community.

It was gathered that several worshippers also sustained injuries in the incident.

An eyewitness, Tinu Oduwale, who spoke to our correspondent on Tuesday, said the truck was descending the road towards a roundabout when its brakes suddenly failed.

She added that the driver lost control of the vehicle and plunged into the church.

She said, “The truck was descending towards the roundabout when the driver suddenly discovered that the brake was no longer working. He was shouting and honking repeatedly.

“To avoid ramming into vehicles and people at the junction, he swerved and headed towards the building. Unfortunately, that was how the truck crashed straight into the church.”

Another resident, who identified himself simply as Sanjo, told *PUNCH Metro* that the worshippers had just finished their evening service when the incident occurred.

He added that the casualty figure could have been higher if the crash had happened earlier.

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“The number of deaths would have been much higher. They had just finished service around that time. Some members had already left, while others were still inside the church, either praying or preparing to go home, when the truck rammed into the building.”

The resident added that emergency responders, including personnel of the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service and other security agencies, were deployed to the scene.

In a video seen by our correspondent on Tuesday, some of the victims were trapped under the truck as emergency responders and residents were seen unloading sand from the vehicle to rescue them.

It was gathered that the driver of the truck fled the scene shortly after the incident.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Abimbola Adebisi, confirmed the incident.

She said, “Six people died. The truck is unregistered, and the driver was nowhere to be found. The remains of the deceased worshippers have been deposited in the morgue, and an investigation is ongoing.”

The incident comes amid growing complaints over fatal road crashes involving heavy-duty trucks reportedly in poor mechanical condition.

*PUNCH Metro* reported on Friday that a commercial driver and his assistant, who were transporting live chicks, lost their lives after their vehicle crashed into the median at the Oremeji area of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

| **Dayo Oyewo**